

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for producing a protein having an antithrombotic activity, which comprises replacing, in a protein that has ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and forms a tertiary structure, from N-terminus to C-terminus, composed of a first β strand (β 1), a first α helix (α 1), a second α helix (α 2), a second β strand (β 2), a loop, a third β strand (β 3), a fourth β strand (β 4) and a fifth β strand (β 5) in this order from the amino terminus, at least one amino acid residue in a region from α 2 to β 2, a region from β 3 to β 4, or in the regions from α 2 to β 2 and from β 3 to β 4 so that electric charge of the amino acid residue is substituted towards positive direction as compared to the unsubstituted amino acid.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein at least one acidic amino acid residue in the region from α 2 to β 2, a region from β 3 to β 4, or in the regions from α 2 to β 2 and from β 3 to β 4 is replaced with a neutral amino acid residue to change electric charge of the amino acid residue towards positive direction as compared to the unsubstituted amino acid.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the protein originates from *Crotalus horridus horridus*.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, wherein the region from α 2 to β 2 in the protein corresponds to the sequence of the amino acid residues 47 to 72 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and the region from β 3 to β 4 corresponds to the sequence of the amino acid residues 94 to 111 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 4, wherein at least one acidic amino acid residue of which α carbon atom exists within 10 Å from the α carbon

atom of the arginine residue of the amino acid residue 103 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 is replaced with a neutral amino acid residue.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 5, wherein the acidic amino acid residue is at least one residue selected from the aspartic acid residue of the amino acid residue 54, the aspartic acid residue of the amino acid residue 101 and the glutamic acid residue of the amino acid residue 106 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 1, which further comprises deleting a region containing the loop structure existing between $\beta 2$ and $\beta 3$ in such a manner that the secondary or tertiary structures of $\beta 2$ and $\beta 3$ are maintained, or replacing the region with one or more amino acid residue(s) in a number required to maintain the secondary and tertiary structures of $\beta 2$ and $\beta 3$, said amino acid residue(s) being selected from the group consisting of a glycine residue, an alanine residue, a serine residue and a cysteine residue.

Claim 8 (Original): The method according to Claim 7, wherein the region containing the loop structure existing between $\beta 2$ and $\beta 3$ is replaced with an amino acid sequence composed of four glycine residues.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The method for producing a protein having an antithrombotic activity, which comprises replacing, in a protein that has ~~an~~ the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 and forms a tertiary structure, from N-terminus to C-terminus, composed of a first β strand ($\beta 1$), a first α helix ($\alpha 1$), a second α helix ($\alpha 2$), a second β strand ($\beta 2$), a loop, a third β strand ($\beta 3$), a fourth β strand ($\beta 4$) and a fifth β strand ($\beta 5$) in this order from the amino terminus, at least one amino acid residue in a region from $\alpha 2$ to $\beta 2$, a region from $\beta 3$ to $\beta 4$, or in the regions from $\alpha 2$ to $\beta 2$ and from $\beta 3$ to $\beta 4$ so that electric charge of the

amino acid residue is substituted towards positive direction as compared to the unsubstituted amino acid,

which further comprises covalently bonding a polyoxyalkylpolyol group to the protein.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the protein contains a cysteine residue corresponding to a cysteine residue of the amino acid residue 81 in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, and the polyoxyalkylpolyol group is bonded to said cysteine residue.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 9, wherein the polyoxyalkylpolyol group is a polyethylene glycol group.

Claims 12 - 34 (Canceled)

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 12-34 were previously canceled.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended.

The amendment of Claims 1 and 9 is supported by Claims 1-24 as originally filed, as well as the specification as filed at pages 7-85.

The specification has been amended on page 14. Support for this amendment is provided by the originally filed figures and sequence listing.

No new matter is believed to have been entered by the present amendments.